

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BULGARIAN COMMENTARY ON MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENTS

REF: SOFIA 868

1. FIRST AUTHORITATIVE BULGARIAN COMMENTARY ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT APPEARED IN ARTICLE MAY 31 BY IVAN DONEV, DEPUTY EDITOR AND MIDDLE EAST EXPERT OF PARTY DAILY RABOTNICHESKO DELO.

2. COMMENTARY USES RECENTLY CONCLUDED ACCORD AS CENTERPIECE FOR STRONG STATEMENT ON SOVIET AND OTHER SOCIALIST AID TO ARAB STATES. DONEV, FOR EXAMPLE, SAYS THAT ISRAEL HAS INVADDED ARAB TERRITORY OFTEN IN PAST THREE DECADES AND "ALWAYS IT WAS THE USSR WHICH SAVED THE ARAB PEOPLES". EVERYTHING ARABS HAVE ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS IS DUE SOLELY TO SOVIET ASSISTANCE. HENCE "IMPERIALISTS' EFFORTS" TO UNDERMINE TIES BETWEEN USSR AND ARAB STATES CAN BE BETTER UNDERSTOOD AS PART OF GENERAL STRATEGY TO ASSIST ISRAELI AGGRESSION.

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THESE TACTICS, ACCORDING TO DONEV, "HAVE INCLUDED

EFFORTS TO KEEP THE SOVIET UNION AWAY FROM SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE AREA", BUT RECENT SYRIAN AGREEMENT PROVES THAT NO PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED IN MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT COOPERATION OF USSR.

3. ARTICLE ADMITS THAT ACCORDS MUST BE ASSESSED "AS A POSITIVE FACT" AND CALLS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE TO RESUME ITS WORK AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SET A DEADLINE FOR COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORY. THIS, COUPLED WITH GUARANTEE FOR LEGAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO BRING LASTING PEACE TO AREA.

4. COMMENT: DONEV PIECE CARRIES FORWARD LINE LAID DOWN IN INITIAL GOV REACTION BUT IS MUCH STRONGER IN ITS DEFENSE OF PREVIOUS SOVIET (AND PATHETICALLY, BULGARIAN) ASSISTANCE TO ARABS. ARTICLE STRIKES US AS EFFORT TO HEAD OFF CRITICISM WITHIN BCP THAT SOVIET POSITION IN AREA HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY ERODED BY SUCCESS OF US PEACE KEEPING EFFORTS.
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